



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

PUBLIC HEALTH, 1967

A. YOUNG, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.
Public Health Inspector and Surveyor

T H E U R B A N D I S T R I C T O F K I R K H A M

A N N U A L H E A L T H R E P O R T

for the Year 1967

Medical Officer of Health:

J. E. Morris, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.C.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E. A. R. Berkley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

A. Young, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

Deputy Surveyor and Assistant Public Health Inspector:

M. B. Bamber, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.T.C.S., Dip.H.Eng.

A N N U A L H E A L T H R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the Year 1967

To the Chairman and Members of the

Kirkham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year 1967. The health of the area remained satisfactory during the year and there were no major outbreaks of infectious illnesses.

My thanks are again due to my colleagues in the health department for their loyalty and assistance. I would also wish to express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the encouragement and support afforded to me.

Yours faithfully,

J. E. MORRIS,

Medical Officer of Health.



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GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	940
Home Population	6,370
(at the 1961 census the population was 4,811. The estimated mid-year home population in 1966 was 6,260)..	
Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/67	1,852
Rateable value at 31/12/67	£193,058
Amount produced by a penny rate	£800

VITAL STATISTICS

Births - 90 live births (39 males and 51 females) were registered during the year. The birth rate of 14.9 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 19.3 per 1,000 in 1966.

Stillbirths - There was one stillbirth during the year making a stillbirth rate of 11 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths compared with a rate of 17.2 in 1966.

The total number of live and stillbirths during the year was 91.

Deaths - 73 deaths (32 males and 41 females) were registered during the year. The death rate of 15.6 per 1,000 compared with a death rate of 13.7 per 1,000 in 1966.

Infantile Mortality - 2 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred compared with 2 in 1966, giving a rate of 22 per 1,000.

The neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) was 22 compared to Nil in 1966.

The early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) was 22 compared with Nil in 1966.

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) - Number of deaths Nil. Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths was Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The table below shows the causes of death of Urban District residents in 1967.

Cause of Death	M.	F.	T.
Pneumonia	1 ...	1 ...	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1 ...	1 ...	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1 ...	1 ...	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	- ...	3 ...	3
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	4 ...	5 ...	9
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2 ...	7 ...	9
Coronary Disease, Angina	6 ...	5 ...	11
Other Heart Disease	- ...	7 ...	7
Other Circulatory Disease	3 ...	2 ...	5
Bronchitis	3 ...	- ...	3
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	4 ...	6 ...	10
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1 ...	2 ...	3
Congenital Malformations	2 ...	1 ...	3
Suicide	1 ...	- ...	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis	1 ...	- ...	1
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	1 ...	- ...	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1 ...	- ...	1
	<u>32</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>73</u>

The table below shows the comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this district for the past five years:

Year	England & Wales		Kirkham Urban District	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
1963	18.2	12.2	18.2	13.2
1964	18.4	11.3	19.4	17.4
1965	18.1	11.5	19.8	12.1
1966	17.7	11.7	19.3	13.7
1967	17.2	11.2	14.9	15.6

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Personnel:-

Medical Officer of Health:

J. E. MORRIS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.C.H.

Other appointments held: Medical Officer of Health, Boroughs of Lytham St. Annes and Fleetwood, Urban Districts of Poulton-le-Fylde, Preesall and Thornton Cleveleys, and Fylde Rural District, Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Health Division No. 3, Lancashire County Council.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E. A. R. BERKLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Public Health Inspector:

A. YOUNG, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.,

Other appointments held: Surveyor, Building Inspector and Housing Manager with Kirkham U.D.C.

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

M. B. BAMBER, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.T.C.S., Dip.H.Eng.

Hospital Facilities - For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee and the Blackpool Victoria, Wesham Park and Lytham St. Annes Hospitals of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool, excepting in the cases of Tuberculosis and Smallpox. Main provision for cases of Tuberculosis is at Elswick Sanatorium. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance Facilities - The Ambulance Service is administered by the Lancashire County Council. The needs of the district are met by vehicles operating through the County's radio scheme.

Laboratory Facilities - Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out in the Public Health Laboratories attached to Preston Royal Infirmary.

Professional Nursing in the Home - General nursing cases and confinements are attended by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics - A County Council Clinic is located in Moor Street and sessions held at the time of preparation of this report, are as follows:-

Monday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

Monday, p.m. - Audiometric (Alternate Mondays).

Tuesday, a.m. - Chiropody for Schools (twice a month).

Tuesday, a.m. - Speech Therapy.

Tuesday, p.m. - Relaxation Classes (Ante Natal).

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m. - Chiropody.

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

Wednesday, p.m. - Cytology (Cervical Smear Test) (Every 3rd Wednesday).

Thursday, a.m. - Minor Ailments.

Thursday, p.m. - Immunisations (Excluding Smallpox) (fourth Thursday
in each month)

Thursday, p.m. - Smallpox Vaccination (Second Thursday in each month).

Thursday, p.m. - Child Welfare Clinic.

Friday, p.m. - Ante Natal (alternate Fridays).

Friday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year 1967.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified													
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 and over	Age unknown	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	10		1	2	1	1	4			1				
Whooping Cough	13	3		2	2	2	4							
Acute Poliomyelitis:- Paralytic														
" Non-Paralytic														
Measles (excluding Rebella)	63	1	7	10	15	8	19		2	1				
Diphtheria														
Dysentery														
Meningococcal Infection														
Ophthalmia Neonatorum														
Acute Pneumonia (Prim. and Infl.)														
Smallpox														
Acute Encephalitis - Infective														
" Post-Infectious														
Enteric or Typhoid Fever														
Paratyphoid Fevers														
Erysipelas														
Food Poisoning														
Puerperal Pyrexia														
Other Notifiable Diseases														
TOTAL	86	4	8	14	18	11	27	-	2	2	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

A tuberculosis service is provided in its various aspects by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council and District Councils. The Hospital Board is responsible mainly for treatment, the County Council for prevention, care and after care, and the Sanitary Authority also for prevention. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council and the Hospital and Chest Clinic facilities by the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

In 1967 there was one new case notified and no deaths reported from the disease.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,
Kirkham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first annual report.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE OF THE DISTRICT

Sewers and Sewerage System - The sewage, in conjunction with that from Wesham, runs into tanks at Newton and then into the River Ribble. The sewage disposal works consists of two detritus tanks, six settling tanks and fourteen sludge beds. These were constructed in 1941.

The responsibility for the main sewer and sewage works is held by the Kirkham and Wesham Joint Sewerage Committee.

Forty-nine new houses were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

Problems again occurred with periodic flooding during the year particularly in the north western area of the town near Milbanke Estate. Surface water run-off initially carried in the Wrongway Brook culvert which is the natural watercourse draining the north western area surcharges the joint trunk sewer in times of exceptionally heavy rainfall.

Rivers and Streams - The Wrongway Brook is culverted or piped from Brook Street, Sunnybank to a point just past the east side of The Coppice off Milbanke Avenue. The line is such that it passes along the back gardens of Bungalows on the north side of Milbanke Avenue.

Particularly severe flooding occurred in the Milbanke Area and in Brook Street in October, it is considered that a partial blockage of the Culvert was a significant, although not a total factor contributing to this problem.

The Culvert is maintainable by the owners of the properties through which it passes. This is an onerous burden to bear for a private householder and it raises a problem that will not be solved until the advent of the augmented land drainage scheme which will be carried out together with the new sewerage scheme.

A second stream, commencing at the Bye-Pass end of Orders Lane, runs down Orders Lane, under Poulton Street and Mill Street in a brick culvert and discharges into Carr Brook at the north-easterly corner of the Flax Mill Land.

Water Supply - Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board and is derived from upland surface sources at Grizedale and Higher Hodder. The water supply is of good quality and is adequate in quantity. All houses have supplies available from this source and all have piped supplies available within the house, none being supplied by stand pipes. Fluoride is present in the water supply to the extent of 0.1 parts per million.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Complaints - Over 400 complaints were received during the year many of these being from Council House tenants regarding repairs and defects. 570 visits were made in connection with this work.

Statutory Nuisances discovered numbered 181 of which 172 are abated the remaining 9 being carried forward to next year.

No statutory formal notices were served since satisfaction in most cases is assured by informal consultations with the landlords concerned. Coercion is threatened only as a last resort.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

Mention was made last year concerning the apathy of owner occupiers and owners of older type properties in relation to Standard Grants provided under the Housing Acts 1961 and 1964.

During the year under review 9 applications for Standard Grants were received and approved and 8 grants totaling £876 0. 0. were paid.

There remain many properties in this town that could well benefit from the provision of Standard Grant amenities.

The problem is national and not merely local since in 1965 the number of applications for improvement grants in England and Wales was 107,720 compared with 130,832 in 1960 a reduction of over 23,000.

It is an accepted fact in this world that "one does not get something for nothing" but the one exception is the Standard Grant provisions. It is amazing that a tax free gift of up to £155 to improve a house with virtually no strings attached is largely ignored by both owners and owner/occupiers of houses in this town.

The Council have now taken a lead in this direction with the help of similar government grants and a scheme has been finalised for the improvement to full modern standards of all pre-war Council Houses in Kirkham - a total of 54 houses. Work on this scheme will definately commence early in 1968.

Provisions, of course, exist in the Housing Acts for compulsory improvements of private houses on an area basis.

What a strange state of affairs, however, when one must coerce another to accept a gift!

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

One caravan site only now exists in the town and this is well screened at the rear of the Market Square. A maximum of seven caravans has been set for the site and during the year this number was never exceeded. Negotiations are in hand regarding an amenity standard compatible with that of the Ministry Model Standards for Caravan Sites but in view of the small number of caravans on site some flexibility may be required. Towards the latter end of the year only one caravan was permanently established on the site and it is understood that this is soon to go consequent to the proposed development of this area with the Market Square.

DISINFESTATIONS

Infestations by parasitical vermin has greatly declined since the advent of D.D.T. and higher standards of living. However, there are still houses in the town which require treatment from time to time, these houses often, but not always are inhabited by aged persons. The Council undertake to spray free of charge houses where infestations are discovered. Free issues of D.D.T. powder are available at the Council Offices. Infestations by Ants are not uncommon and often occur in better class properties. A residual laquer aerosol has proved most effective in some cases.

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Properties were visited in connection with infectious diseases and disinfection carried out where necessary. A vacuum steam sterilizer is available at Wesham Park Hospital and Devonshire Road Hospital Blackpool for treatment of affected bedding and clothing.

CLEAN AIR ACT

Smoke nuisances from industrial chimneys occur from time to time in the town although none are considered serious enough to warrant legal action. Very few complaints are received by the Department in this respect but observations are taken on occasions and consultations have taken place with the boilermen and management. Kirkham adds its full quota of pollution from private dwellings to the atmosphere the effluents being much greater in volume than the industrial effluent.

The town is fortunate in being surrounded by a green belt and being somewhat isolated from the great conurbations of Lancashire, thus more effective dispersal and dilution with the atmosphere is achieved; however, "lung level" smoke from domestic dwellings particularly bungalows abounds during the winter months and frequent temperature inversions prevent effective dispersal and dilution.

The Clean Air Act has now been with us for over ten years and much of the early difficulties with supplies of smokless fuels have been resolved. The possibility of smokless zones in the area must not be permanently shelved if we are resolved to play our part in reducing the high incidence of Bronchitis in this part of the Country.

FOOD AND DRUGS

All food establishments in the town continue to maintain a standard consistent with the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations by this Department.

The sole manufacturer of ice cream in the town has now ceased to operate and the premises have been taken over by a distributor of meat pies and hamburgers. These products are distributed over most of Lancashire from the Kirkham Depot.

The foodstalls of the open market present a particular problem in food hygiene and opportunity was taken this year to apply the new Food Hygiene (Market Stalls) Regulations.

One slaughter house is in operation in the town and is visited each morning for purposes of meat inspection.

Meat Inspection: All meat for human consumption killed in the town is inspected and stamped with the Council's mark as being fit for human consumption. A charge is made for this service.

Other Foods: The following items of food were inspected, found unfit and surrendered by shopkeepers for destruction.

6 lbs. Corned Beef, 11 lbs. Boiled Ham.

Carcases inspected and condemned were as follows:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	276	-	-	1,132	515
Number inspected	276	-	-	1,132	515
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	107	-	-	125	75
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	38.7%	-	-	11%	14.5%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	16
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	3.1%
Cysticercosis:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Milk Supply and Distribution - During the course of the year the Milk Marketing Board Dairy in Orders Lane closed down in order to rationalise distribution.

Dairies in the district 8

Shops in the district other than dairies 5

No complaints were received in regard to the milk supply. Only "specially designated" milk (that is pasteurised, sterilised or Tuberculin tested milk) can now be sold in Kirkham under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No.2) Order, 1955, which came into force on the 6th December, 1955.



ICE CREAM

Some 33 premises are registered with the Council for sale and storage of Ice Cream. These have all been inspected and found satisfactory.

MEAT PRODUCTS

Four premises are registered with the Council for the manufacture of made-up meat products. Since ice cream and partly cooked meat products are particularly viable and highly susceptible to contamination these premises require constant supervision and inspection in order to maintain a high standard of hygiene.

Food sampling by the Lancashire County Council.

22, Milk Samples and 11, Samples of other foods as follows:-

- 1 Bottled Fruit
- 1 Meat and Vegetables, canned
- 1 Mushrooms, canned
- 2 Dripping
- 1 Vermicelli
- 1 Brown Sugar
- 1 Pie Filling
- 1 Dried Fruit
- 1 Christmas Tree Decoration, edible
- 1 Cough Medicine

All samples were satisfactory with the exception of one sample of Vermicelli which was found, on analysis, to contain the permitted artificial colouring matter "Tartrazine" without declaration in list of ingredients. The Manufacturer was communicated with.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council undertake the collection and disposal of household and certain trade refuse in the Area.

Trade refuse from the shops mainly in the form of waste paper and packings is collected weekly on a separate basis.

Disposal of the refuse is by controlled tipping, at Coronation Road Tip. The land is being reclaimed for use as playing fields.

The domestic refuse collection service continues to operate smoothly and efficiently and it is a pleasure to report that members of the Public have seen fit to remark on the regularity and efficiency of this onerous task.

The salvage collection service suffered during the year due to the unreliability of the old refuse vehicle.

The number of men engaged on the work is as follows:-

1 Driver	}	Full-time
5 Loaders		
1 Driver	}	Part-time
2 Salvage Collectors		
1 Salvage Baler		

All waste paper is sold under contract to Thames Board Mills Ltd., after being baled at the Council Depot.

The total income from salvage during the year was £806 2s. 5d.

The total tonnage salvaged was as follows:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Waste Paper (all grades)	97	11	1	19
Rags and Metals	4	17	1	14
	<u>102</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT

Three premises are registered under the above Act. The amount of this material used is very small since the advent of latex foams.

No samples were taken during the year.

OFFICES AND SHOPS ACT 1963

All premises coming within the scope of the Offices and Shops Act - some 60 in all - were fully inspected during the year and where repairs and improvements were necessary then these were put in hand.

RODENT CONTROL

51 properties including business premises were treated during the year for infestations of Rats and Mice. One workman is employed on a part-time basis as a Rodent Operative and has attended Ministry Courses in modern methods of control.

In general it is found that the sewers in Kirkham are remarkably free from rats and although periodic routine baiting is carried out on sewer lengths the "takes" from these are minimal.

This desirable state of affairs is no doubt brought about by the periodic flooding to which the sewers in Kirkham are subject thus making these "Havens of Refuge" for the rodent population less attractive than is usually the case.

The brooks and tip area, however, require frequent inspection and control.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Sixteen premises are licensed to store petroleum and one to store cellulose. In all cases the storage tanks are situated underground. The total storage capacity is 35,600 gallons.

HOUSING

Number of houses on Rate Books	1,852
Number of new houses erected during year:	
(a) By Local Authority	Nil
(b) By other bodies or persons	49
Number of houses closed or demolished during the year	4
Number of persons displaced	7
Number of discretionary grant applications received during the year	Nil
Number of standard grant applications received during the year	9
Number of standard grants approved during the year	9

FACTORY ACT 1961

There are some 39 Factories registered with the Council. Certain provisions of the Act are administered by this Department and in this connection all factories on the Register were inspected during the year.

Notices were served concerning contraventions of the Act and in all cases work was completed or put in hand.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

There are few complaints regarding noise in the town but where this occurs it has always been possible to abate the nuisance informally and without re-course to legal action.

STAFF

I would like to express my thanks to members of the staff, the Foreman and all Workmen, for their excellent and willing co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. YOUNG.

